

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY M/CT: RPMYERS:NWH
APPROVED BY M/CT: AMB. HECK
M/CT:JEKARKASHIAN
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SCA/VO: MS. MORRIS (PARA 4)
S/S - MR. BRIDGES

-----240120 019759 /72-62

O P 240004Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041036

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF SALVADORAN CITIZEN: ROBERTO POMA

REFS: A. STATE 037593 (NOTAL); B. SAN SALVADOR 0742
--- (NOTAL); C. SAN SALVADOR 0792

1. REASONS FOR OUR INABILITY TO ASSIST POMA FAMILY
WERE SPELLED OUT IN REFTEL A. FACT THAT POMA'S DAUGHTER
IS AMCIT DOES NOT CHANGE FACT THAT ROBERTO WAS SALVADORAN
CITIZEN AND USG HAD NO GROUNDS ON WHICH TO INTERVENE ON
BEHALF OF POMA FAMILY.

2. NOW THAT GOES HAS REQUESTED USG ASSISTANCE (REFTEL B)
WE ARE EXPLORING WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL.
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3. IN THE INTERIM WE WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL INFO FROM
POST WHICH INDICATES THAT ERP HAS INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS.
WE KNOW OF NO SUCH FOREIGN CONTACTS, WITH EXCEPTION OF
POSSIBLE ERP LINKS WITH THE GUATEMALAN "GUERRRILLA ARMY
OF THE POOR" WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR KIDNAPPING
OF DUAL GUATEMALAN-AMERICAN CITIZEN EDMUNDO BROL ON

FEBRUARY 7.

4. UNFORTUNATELY, POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ASIDE, USG SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE RESOURCES TO ENGAGE IN SURVEILLANCE OF RODOLFO MARIANO JIMENEZ VEGA AND AND GUADALUPE MARTINEZ IN ALGERIA AFTER THEIR RELEASE BY GOES.

5. A NAME CHECK ON MARTINEZ AND VEGA, RUN THROUGH OUR INTELLIGENCE DATA BASE ON TERRORISTS, REVEALED NO INFO ON EITHER OF THEM EXCEPT FOR THEIR ORIGINAL ARREST BY GOES AND FACT THAT THEY HAD BEEN RELEASED BY GOES IN EFFORT TO SAVE ROBERTO POMA'S LIFE. IF THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR VISA INELIGIBILITY, EMBASSY SHOULD ENTER NAMES OF TWO RELEASED PRISONERS INTO AUTOMATED VISA LOOKOUT SYSTEM (AVLOS).

6. AS FOR YOUR SUGGESTION, CONTAINED REFTEL C. CONCERNING RANSOM MONEY, WE ARE EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF HAVING APPROPRIATE USG AGENCY CIRCULATE SERIAL NUMBERS OF \$100 BILLS TO ALL BANKS IN MIAMI/NEW ORLEANS WITH REQUEST THAT BANKS SCRUTINIZE ALL DEPOSITS CONSISTING OF LARGE NUMBERS OF FIFTIES AND HUNDREDS. UNFORTUNATELY, ZEROXED COPIES OF SERIAL NUMBERS WHICH WERE DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT CONTAINED MANY ILLEGIBLE PAGES. IF WE ARE TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON YOUR SUGGESTION WE WILL NEED NEW LIST OF SERIAL NUMBERS. LIST SHOULD BE LEGIBLE AND CAPABLE OF BEING REPRODUCED. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY INFO AS TO WHY EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT TERRORISTS MIGHT TAKE RISK OF DEPOSITING SUCH FUNDS IN A US BANK, PARTICULARLY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MIAMI OR NEW ORLEANS.

7. FINALLY, WE HAVE A COPY OF THE NOTE ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY POMA WITH HIS LEFT HAND. WE WILL ATTEMPT A HAND-WRITING CONFIRMATION/ANALYSIS IF SUCH IS POSSIBLE. TO DO SO WE MUST AT MINIMUM HAVE SAMPLE OF POMA'S NORMAL HAND-WRITING. PLEASE FORWARD SAMPLE DIRECTLY TO OFFICE FOR COMBATTING TERRORISM (M/CT).
VANCE

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NNN

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